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PCT Rec'd 21 DEC 2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKASHI SHIBATA ET AL. :
SERIAL NO: 09/926,163 : ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH
FILED: SEPTEMBER 17, 2001 :
FOR: SORBITOL DEHYDROGENASE,
GENE ENCODING THE SAME AND
USE THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

Page 4, beginning at line 22 and continuing to page 5, line 2, delete the paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

(5) An SLDH which is the following protein (a) or (b):

(a) a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence depicted in Sequence Listing SEQ

ID NO:2

(b) a protein consisting of the same amino acid sequence as

(a) above, except that one to several amino acids are deleted, substituted, inserted, added or modified, which catalyzes a reaction converting D-sorbitol to L-sorbose.